

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-37 (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) ~~The data monitoring method according to claim 8~~ A data monitoring method comprising:

activating an information obtaining means automatically at the time of inputting originals;

monitoring each copy element of monitoring object data consisting of at least one kind of copy element in accordance with at least one kind of copy element in accordance with at least one kind of copy inhibition information stored in inhibition information storage;

inhibition input or output of the monitoring object data if the monitoring determines that said each copy element agrees with a kind of said copy inhibition information; and

obtaining the copy inhibition information by means of the information obtaining means from a master information storage on a network by issuing a request if originals of said copy inhibition information are stored in the master information storage on the network, wherein the request executing a step of obtaining the copy inhibition information is issued when the network printer is activated.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~The data monitoring method according to claim 8~~ A data monitoring method comprising:

activating an information obtaining means automatically at the time of inputting originals;

monitoring each copy element of monitoring object data consisting of at least one kind of copy element in accordance with at least one kind of copy element in accordance with at least one kind of copy inhibition information stored in inhibition information storage;

inhibition input or output of the monitoring object data if the monitoring determines that said each copy element agrees with a kind of said copy inhibition information; and

obtaining the copy inhibition information by means of the information obtaining means from a master information storage on a network by issuing a request if originals of said copy inhibition information are stored in the master information storage on the network, wherein the request executing a step of obtaining the copy inhibition information is issued when the printing data is inputted to the image memory or outputted from the image memory.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~The data monitoring device according to claim 19~~ A data monitoring device comprising:

monitoring means activating an information obtaining means automatically at the time of inputting originals and monitoring at least one kind of copy element prepared from monitoring object data based on the copy inhibition information;

inhibition means inhibiting input or output of the monitoring object data if said at least one copy element included in the monitoring object data agrees with one of the copy inhibition information;

a master information storage on the network storing originals of the copy inhibition information; and

information obtaining means obtaining the copy inhibition information from said master information storage on a network by issuing a request, wherein the information obtaining means

obtains the copy inhibition information based on the request issued when the network printer is activated.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~The data monitoring device according to claim 19~~ A data monitoring device comprising:

monitoring means activating an information obtaining means automatically at the time of inputting originals and monitoring at least one kind of copy element prepared from monitoring object data based on the copy inhibition information;

inhibition means inhibiting input or output of the monitoring object data if said at least one copy element included in the monitoring object data agrees with one of the copy inhibition information;

a master information storage on the network storing originals of the copy inhibition information; and

information obtaining means obtaining the copy inhibition information from said master information storage on a network by issuing a request, wherein the information obtaining means obtains the copy inhibition information based on the request issued when the printing data is inputted to the image memory or outputted from the image memory.